

REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated August 11, 2006, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-8, 11, 12, 14, and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollstrom et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,763,247) in view of Miller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,331,580).

Claim 13 is allowed. The Examiner has indicated that claims 9, 10, 17 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant hereinabove cancels the rejected claims and rewrites allowable claims 9, 10 and 17 into condition for allowance. Applicant submits that the Amendment should be entered as it raises no new issues in need of further consideration.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. Appl. No. 09/803,738

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Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any
overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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